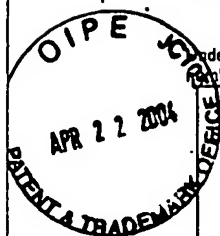


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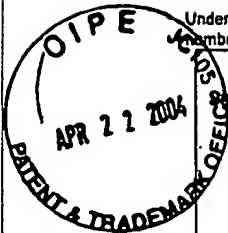
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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	10/698,702
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				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
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		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (If known)			
PP		3,486,505	05-1967	Morrison	
		3,848,601	11-1974	Ma	
		4,309,488	01-1982	Heide et al.	
		4,545,374	10-1985	Jacobson	
		4,626,392	12-1986	Kondo et al.	
		4,636,217	01-1987	Ogilvie et al.	
		4,654,314	03-1987	Takagi et al.	
		4,687,675	08-1987	Nakano et al.	
		4,714,469	12-1987	Kenna	
		4,722,870	02-1988	White	
		4,736,738	04-1988	Lipovsek et al.	
		4,743,256	05-1988	Brantigan	
		4,820,305	04-1989	Harms et al.	
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		4,950,296	08-1990	McIntyre	
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		5,062,845	11-1991	Kuslich	
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		5,250,061	10-1993	Michelson	
		5,258,029	11-1993	Chu et al.	
		5,282,861	02-1994	Kaplan	
		5,306,302	04-1994	Bauer et al.	
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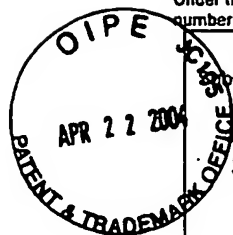
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		5,306,309	04-1994	Wagner et al.	
		5,329,846	07-1994	Bonutti	
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		5,782,830	07-1998	Farris	

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		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (If known)			
PP		5,810,819	09-1998	Errico et al.	
		5,814,084	09-1998	Grivas et al.	
		5,857,995	01-1999	Thomas et al.	
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		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (If known)				
PP		EP 0 077 159 A	04-1983			
		GB 2 207 607 A	02-1989			
		EP 0 307 241	03-1989			
		DE 37 41 493 A1	06-1989			
		EP 0 392 076	10-1990			
		WO 95/08306	03-1995			
		WO 95/15133	06-1995			
		WO 96/22747	08-1996			
		WO 96/40013	12-1996			
		WO 97/13378	04-1997			

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		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
PP ↓		WO 97/15248	05-1997			
		WO 97/25945	07-1997			
		WO 98/17209	04-1998			
		WO 98/17330	04-1998			
		WO 01/70144	09-2001			

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s) publisher city and/or country where published			T <sup>2</sup>
PP		<del>AcroMed Spine Tools, PLIF Instruments (undated)</del>			
		<del>AeroMed, Brantigan I/F Cage, (undated)</del>			
		Albee, Fred H. MD, <i>Bone Graft Surgery in Disease, Injury and Deformity</i> , published by D. Appleton-Century Company (1940)			
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		Sofamor Danek, <i>Laparoscopic Bone Dowel Surgical Technique</i> , Memphis, Tennessee (1995)			
		<i>Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation Brochure</i> , (Apr. 1996)			
		Sofamor Danek, <i>Surgical Technique Using Bone Dowel Instrumentation for Posterior Approach</i> , LIT.PLIF.ST96 (1996)			
		Sofamor Danek, <i>Surgical Tips Posterior Approach</i> (1998)			
		University of Florida Tissue Bank, Inc. <i>Allograft Catalog</i> (1998)			
		Vaughan, John J. MD, <i>New and Innovative Fusion Techniques</i> , The Kentucky Spines Inst. (Dec. 1998)			

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